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REVIEWS OF BOOKS

The History of the World. A Survey of Man's Record. Edited by Dr. H. F. HELMOLT, with an Introductory Essay by the Right Hon. JAMES BRYCE, D.C.L., LL.D., F.R.S. In eight volumes. Vols. I., IV., and VII. (New York: Dodd, Mead, and Company. 1902. Pp. lx, 628; xii, 590; ix, 573.)

THE plan of this new universal history marks a wide departure from the time-honored model of the familiar *Weltgeschichte*. In its scheme geography and ethnography, so far as possible, are the determining factors in the arrangement of the material so as to give proper recognition to the influence of physical environment in shaping human progress. In its apportionment of space to different peoples it is equally emancipated from the trammels of tradition. The advantages of the plan appear at their best in Volumes IV. and VII., devoted respectively to the "Mediterranean Countries" and to "Western Europe"; and its defects stand out most sharply in Volume I., which is devoted to America, and in which the Pacific Ocean is assumed as the central geographic factor. Dr. Helmolt's reasons for this as given in the preface appear to me to be trivial. It would be impossible to select for the starting-point of a universal history a geographical center that is so far from the beginning, and whose history presupposes for its proper understanding so much that has gone before as is the case with America. The objections to this arrangement of the material that occur to one are far from quieted by Dr. Helmolt's introductory essay, which is overloaded with aphorisms and generalizations from various authors, and is distinctly lacking in close and lucid argumentation. The question, however, is not vital to the merits of the work as a whole, for no one is obliged to read the first volume first.

The contents of the opening volume, waiving the question whether they all belong there, are excellent. The second chapter, by Professor Kohler of Berlin, is a general survey of the development of social, political, and religious institutions. It invites comparison with the introduction which Mr. Bryce has written for the English edition. The two are in some respects counterparts of each other, the one dealing with the internal, the other with the more external aspects of human progress, and both reflecting not only the intellectual characteristics of their authors, but in some measure also those of the German and the English mind. Next comes a compendious statement by Professor Ratzel of the principles of anthropogeography, the presentation of which in English is to be wel-

comed. Equally welcome is Professor Johannes Ranke's sketch of pre-historic culture, a masterly review of the present state of knowledge of the subject.

Nearly 400 pages of the 600 in this volume are devoted to Karl Haebler's "America." Of these 400 pages 166 are taken up with aboriginal culture and history—not too much, surely, for the Americanist; but when in Volume IV. one finds only 46 pages allotted to the history of Greece to the death of Alexander, and 135 pages to the history of Rome, he has misgivings as to the editor's real grasp of the problem and significance of human history and of the relative importance of its contributing elements. Of this part of Dr. Haebler's work I cannot speak with competence, but his great familiarity with the recent critical literature of the discoveries renders his account of that period of American history a most convenient summary of present-day accepted fact and approved conjecture. Much higher value attaches to his survey of the Spanish colonial empire, with its discussion of the *Casa de Contratacion*, the native question, the missions, trade policy, and negro slavery. On all these subjects Dr. Haebler writes from the vantage-ground of his researches in the economic history of Spain; and the section as a whole is far and away the best brief account of the Spanish colonial system accessible at present to the English reader. His account, too, of Spanish-American history is a serviceable addition to the not over-abundant scholarly treatments of the subject in English.

The fourth volume, as I have said before, exhibits in a favorable light the arrangement of the material on geographical lines; and the various contributions are excellent. Professor Rudolf von Scala of Innsbruck makes brilliant use of the limited space allotted to him for Greece. Dr. Jung has more elbow-room for his presentation of Roman history, and yet the mass of fact is too great for him to escape altogether the arid atmosphere of a summary. Both of these writers correlate with their narratives in the appropriate places the work of the ancient historians. Dr. Heinrich Schurtz in 85 pages takes a bird's-eye view of the history of the Pyrenean peninsula from the days of the primitive Iberians to the end of the Spanish-American War, a veritable *tour de force*. In spite of its merits, one must consider the space too brief for a proper treatment of the period of Spain's greatness.

The most striking essay in Volume VII. is that of Professor Richard Mayr on the "Economic Development of Western Europe" since the crusades. The opening paragraphs immediately arrest the attention by their richness of thought and their precision of definition; and the chapter as a whole is compact with interesting facts and suggestive generalizations. Another chapter in this volume that is out of the ordinary run is Dr. George Adler's review of the "Social Question," its economic causes, its problems, and its present status in the different countries of the world. The socialistic ideal, he trenchantly asserts, is an illusion, but one of those great illusions which stir inert mankind and make progress possible through the agitation of the mass. The other chapter in these

two volumes are by authors of high standing in the historical field, but do not call for especial comment in this place.

Enough has been said to indicate that the preparation of an English edition of this new *Weltgeschichte* has definitely enriched the body of historical writing in English that is abreast of modern research. In regard to the form of this edition, one may regret that the English volumes cost twice as much as the German ones and are nearly twice as heavy. If the series could have been reproduced in handy volumes, for sale separately as well as in sets, its use would have been more convenient and consequently more extended.

The work of translation may be pronounced good on the whole. The narrative is everywhere readable, and frequently one is not conscious of reading a translation. Then, again, one is brought up sharply and made suddenly conscious that he is trying to see "through a glass darkly." Obscurities of this kind and most of the errors of rendering that I shall quote could very easily have been detected by having the proof read by a scholar familiar with German and with history. These examples, unless otherwise indicated, are from the first volume: On p. 62 Johannes von Mueller's "Einleitung in die Geschichte der Eidgenossenschaft" is rendered "preface to the history of leagues and confederations." On p. 347 we have "the priest John" for "Prester John"; on p. 349 "Toscanellis Brief" is translated "pamphlet"; on p. 352 we meet with "Celi, Duke of Medina," instead of "the Duke of Medina-Celi." On p. 364 we are puzzled by a reference to the discoveries of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, and find that the German reads, "die Entdeckungen im dritten und vierten Jahrzehnt des 16 Jahrhunderts." Again, on p. 391 one stumbles over the sentence, "It was impossible to form any conception of the revenues and progress of the colonies without having sufficient working material in the shape of native labor"; but a glance at the original lifts the veil; "an Einnahmen oder Erträge aus den Kolonien war ohne ein zulängliches Material an eingebornen Arbeitern nicht zu denken." On p. 375 Haebler says Cortez seized Tescuco so as to attack Tenochtitlan, and adds, "Das er auch hier, nach Vertreibung des aztekischen Statthalters, hilfsbereite Bundesgenossen fand, war wieder eine klug in Berechnung gezogene Folge der politischen Verhältnisse von Anahuak"; in the English this becomes, "In consequence of the political situation which had been wisely computed by Anahuak, Cortez," etc. The confusion is even more striking when we are told in regard to the Spanish missionaries in America, "The mysticism of the Renaissance united with the enthusiasm for the natural conditions of human society which had arisen from Romanticism in casting reproach upon the Spanish missionaries that they with blind fanaticism had annihilated the last remnants of sacred antiquity," etc. The German is clear enough, but it naturally has to be understood before it can be translated. It begins, "Der unverständige Doctrinarismus der Aufklärungszeit im Bunde mit der aus der Romantik hervorgegangenen Schwärmerei," etc. These words may be rendered, "The unintelligent

dogmatism of the eighteenth-century rationalists joined with the enthusiasm of the Romanticists for the state of nature," etc. *Die Aufklärung* and *die Aufklärungszeit* in the other volumes are usually rendered "enlightenment," "age of enlightenment." It seems to me, however, that in general historical narrative the proper equivalents are "rationalism" and "eighteenth-century rationalism." In several passages in this first volume the sense is obscured by rendering *wirthschaftlich* by "agricultural" instead of "economic." Two more errors may be mentioned, which must be charged up against the proof-reader. The reviser of the last chapter is Karl Weule in the German and Charles Weale in the English; and the portrait of Toscanelli is labeled Colombo, and that of Columbus is labeled Toscanelli.

EDWARD GAYLORD BOURNE.

A General History of Commerce. By WILLIAM CLARENCE WEBSTER, Ph.D. (Boston and London: Ginn and Company. 1903. Pp. ix, 526.)

It is the intention of the author and publishers that this book shall serve a three-fold purpose: that it shall be used (1) as a text-book in secondary schools that offer regular courses in economic history; (2) as a text-book in lower classes of colleges; and (3) as a companion book to the study of general history, or of the history of particular nations, in all schools. On the whole, because of its scope and method of treatment, it is probably best adapted for the third of these purposes. For the first purpose it ought to be preceded, in order to secure satisfactory results, by a thorough course in general history; for the second purpose it is hardly advanced and detailed enough, and for both purposes its point of view gives rise to serious objections to its use in courses other than the courses in history proper. A few characterizations will bring out more clearly this nature of the work.

It is a history of civilization in which is taken the commercial point of view of the history of the rise and fall of nations. It is really a story of national life. In his endeavor to "get clear-cut and accurate pictures of the commercial growth and decay of separate nations," and not to fail "to grasp the dramatic element which the subject presents," the author has too much emphasized the fact that commerce "prosperes in peace and is destroyed by war," and has not satisfactorily fulfilled his promise of presenting "an understanding of industrial, racial, and climatic" conditions which determine the course of industrial and commercial life. This makes the work more valuable for students who desire, for instance, suggestions as to the commercial aspects of the war between Philip II. and the Netherlands, or of the struggle for supremacy between England and France, than for students who are studying commerce and industry for the sake of the principles involved.

As the title indicates, it is a general history. In the space of 514 pages the author reviews the commercial history of nations from the earliest time to the present. It is necessarily, therefore, a compact statement